

General Services Administration

§ 105-56.002

by compromise at less than the principal of the claim if:

(1) The debtor shows an inability to pay the full amount within a reasonable time;

(2) The Government would be unable to enforce complete collection by any means within a reasonable time;

(3) The amount of the claim does not justify the actual foreseeable collection cost of the claim; or

(4) A combination of the above reasons.

(b) GSA may suspend or terminate collection action in accordance with the terms and procedures contained in 4 CFR part 104.

§ 105-55.009 Referral for litigation.

Claims which cannot be settled under § 105-55.008 or for which collection action cannot be suspended or terminated under 4 CFR parts 103 and 104, will be referred to the General Accounting Office or the Department of Justice, whichever is appropriate, in accordance with the procedures in 4 CFR part 105.

§ 105-55.010 Disclosure to credit reporting agencies and referrals to collection agencies.

The Comptroller and his designees may disclose debtor information to credit reporting agencies and may refer delinquent debts to debt collection agencies under the Federal Claims Collection Act, as amended, and other applicable authorities, provided, however, that no claim arising from the dishonor of any check or other negotiable instrument shall be disclosed to a credit reporting agency or referred to a collection agency without the concurrence of the appropriate Regional Inspector General for Investigations. Information will be disclosed to reporting agencies and referred to debt collection agencies in accordance with the terms and conditions of agreements entered into between GSA and the reporting and collection agencies. The terms and conditions of such agreements shall specify that all of the rights and protections afforded to the debtor under 31 U.S.C. 3711(f) have been fulfilled.

§ 105-55.011 Credit report.

In order to aid the agency in making appropriate determinations as to the collection and compromise of claims; the collection of interest, administrative charges, and penalty charges; the use of administrative offset; the use of other collection methods; and the likelihood of collecting the claim, the Comptroller or his designees may institute a credit investigation of the debtor immediately following receipt of knowledge of the claim.

PART 105-56—SALARY OFFSET FOR INDEBTEDNESS OF GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEES TO THE UNITED STATES

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5514; Pub. L. 97-365, 96 Stat. 1754.

SOURCE: 53 FR 31864, Aug. 22, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 105-56.001 Scope.

(a) This part covers both internal and Government-wide collections under 5 U.S.C. 5514. It applies when certain debts to the U.S. are recovered by administrative offset from the disposable pay of an employee of the U.S. Government, except in situations where the employee consents to the recovery.

(b) The collection of any amount under this section shall be in accordance with the standards promulgated pursuant to the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966 (31 U.S.C. 3701 *et seq.*) or in accordance with any other statutory authority for the collection of claims of the U.S. or any Federal agency.

§ 105-56.002 Excluded debts or claims.

This part does not apply to:

(a) Debts or claims arising under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended (26 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*), the Social Security Act (41 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*), or the tariff laws of the United States.

(b) To any case where collection of a debt by salary offset is explicitly provided for or prohibited by another statute, such as travel advances in 5 U.S.C. 5705 and employee training expenses in 5 U.S.C. 4108. Debt collection procedures under other statutory authorities, however, must be consistent with the provisions of FCCS, defined below..

(c) An employee election of coverage or of a change of coverage under a Federal benefits program which requires periodic deductions from pay if the amount to be recovered was accumulated over four pay periods or less.

§ 105-56.003 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this part:

“Administrator” means the Administrator of the General Services or the Administrator’s designee.

“Debt” means an amount owed to the United States from sources which include loans insured or guaranteed by the United States and all other amounts due the United States from fees, leases, rents, royalties, services, sales of real or personal property, overpayments, penalties, damages, interest, fines and forfeitures and all other similar sources.

“Disposable pay” means the amount that remains from an employee’s Federal pay after required deductions for Federal, State and local income taxes; Social Security taxes, including Medicare taxes; Federal retirement programs; premiums for life and health insurance benefits; and such other deductions that are required by law to be withheld.

“Employee” means a current employee of the General Services Administration, or other executive agency.

“FCCS” means the Federal Claims Collection Standards jointly published by the Justice Department and the General Accounting Office at 4 CFR 101.1 *et seq.*

“Pay” means basic pay, special pay, incentive pay, retired pay, retainer pay, or in the case of an individual not

entitled to basic pay, other authorized pay.

“Program official” means a supervisor or management official of the employee’s service or staff office.

“Salary offset” means an administrative offset to collect a debt under 5 U.S.C. 5514 by deduction(s) at one or more officially established pay intervals from the current pay account of an employee without his or her consent.

“Waiver” means the cancellation, remission, forgiveness, or nonrecovery of a debt allegedly owed by an employee to an agency as permitted or required by 5 U.S.C. 5584, 10 U.S.C. 2774 or 32 U.S.C. 716, 5 U.S.C. 8346(b), or any other law.

§ 105-56.004 Pre-offset notice.

The employee is entitled to written notice from an appropriate program officer in his or her employing activity at least 30 days in advance of initiating a deduction from disposable pay informing him or her of:

(a) The nature, origin and amount of the indebtedness determined by the General Services Administration or another agency to be due;

(b) The intention of the agency to initiate proceedings to collect the debt through deductions from the employee’s current disposable pay;

(c) The amount, frequency, proposed beginning date, and duration of the intended deductions;

(d) GSA’s policy concerning how interest is charged and penalties and administrative cost assessed, including a statement that such assessments must be made unless excused under 31 U.S.C. 3717 and the FCCS, 4 CFR 101.1 *et seq.*;

(e) The employee’s right to inspect and copy Government records relating to the debt if Government records of the debt are not attached, or if the employee or his or her representative cannot personally inspect the records, the right to receive a copy of such records. Any costs associated therewith shall be borne by the debtor. The debtor shall give reasonable notice in advance to GSA of the date on which he or she intends to inspect and copy the records involved;